

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Kindly amend the paragraph that begins at page 8, line 10, as follows:

The objectives of the present invention are achieved by providing a composition for cosmetic use ~~as indicated in claim 1~~ suitable for relaxing expression wrinkles comprising at least one peptide with a decontracting action on the muscular fiber, at least one micro-element which reduces the contraction of a muscular fiber and a cosmetically acceptable carrier. Further characteristics of the invention are specified in the subsequent claims.

Kindly insert the following at page 9, line 11:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWINGS

Fig. 1 is a graph which shows the percentage decrease in muscular fiber concentration versus the concentration of sodium and potassium.

Fig. 2 is a graph which shows the dependence of the outflow of calcium ions versus the external concentration of magnesium ions.

Fig. 3 is a schematic diagram which shows the interaction of sodium and potassium ions on acetyl choline and the actions of the pentapeptide on acetyl choline.

Fig. 4 is a graph which shows the percentage decrease in

the contraction frequency before and after pentapeptide treatment.

Kindly amend the paragraph that begins at page 9, line 11, as follows:

According to a preferred embodiment, said *peptide* component consists of 5 amino acids with a curare-like activity and preferably comprises the following sequence: GLY-PRO-ARG-PRO-ALA SEQ ID NO 1.

Kindly amend the paragraph that begins at page 10, line 3, as follows:

Typically, a pentapeptide of the gly-pro-arg-pro-ala-NH₂ SEQ ID NO 1 type, which is particularly suitable for the application of the invention, can be obtained by means of a chemical synthesis process in solid phase. According to this synthesis procedure, the pentapeptide is synthesized using a polymeric solid carrier, such as, for example, the chlorotriylchloride-2 resin to which the amino acids are bound in succession, starting from the first one. The latter can be used in a suitably modified form so that it is bound to the resin and remains protected (Fmoc-protection) by the action of the reagents used during the polypeptide synthesis.

Kindly amend the paragraph that begins at page 10, line 19, as follows:

According to an embodiment, the active peptide component of the composition of the invention comprises a gly-pro-arg-pro-ala-NH₂ pentapeptide SEQ ID NO 1,

associated with a dipeptide having a decontracting or relaxing action of the muscular fiber, conveniently comprising the amino acids tyrosine and arginine which intervene in the neurotransmission processes causing a relaxation of the muscular fiber and the consequent relaxation of the musculature itself.

Kindly amend the paragraph that begins at page 15, line 3, as follows:

According to a particular preferred embodiment, the cosmetic composition of the invention comprises a combination of a pentapeptide of gly-pro-arg-pro-ala SEQ ID NO 1 with a dipeptide of acetyl tyrosine-arginine and sodium, potassium and magnesium gluconate micro-elements. The continuative topic application of this composition on the areas of the body requiring anti-wrinkle treatment against expression wrinkles induces a relaxation of the muscular fibers, as shown by the "in vitro" tests, causing, for example, a reduction in the depth of the wrinkles formed by repeated contractions of movements of facial expression muscles.

Kindly amend the paragraph that begins at page 15 line 15, as follows:

According to an embodiment, the composition of the invention comprises:
from 0.001% to 5% by weight of Sodium and Potassium
from 0.001% to 5% of Magnesium gluconate
from 0.001% to 5% of acetyl tyrosyl-arginyl(dipeptide)-1-cetyl Ester
from 0.001% to 5% of gly-pro-arg-pro-ala-NH₂ SEQ ID NO 1

Kindly amend the paragraph that begins at page 16, line 2, as follows:

In order to relax expression wrinkles, the above active principles operate synergically on the decontraction mechanism of the muscular cell, according to the following action procedures:

- Pentapeptide of gly-pro-arg-pro-ala-NH₂ SEQ ID NO 1. mainly acts on the post-synaptic membrane. Said pentapeptide is a competitive antagonist of membrane receptors for acetylcholine (Ach). When the membrane receptors for acetylcholine are blocked, the ion canals remain closed. The sodium ions do not pass inside the muscular cell, the release of calcium ions is consequently not induced and the muscle remains relaxed, with the consequent relaxation of the surface tissues and softening of the wrinkles.

Kindly amend the paragraph that begins at page 19, line 23, as follows:

Formulation of a Cosmetic Composition According to the Invention, with Liposomes, Suitable as an Attack Preparation and Called Botoina.RTM. for Endermic Applications:

- 1% by weight of pentapeptide of gly-pro-arg-pro-ala-NH₂ SEQ ID NO 1.
- 4% by weight of anise extract
- 1% of Magnesium gluconate
- 2% of acetyl tyrosyl-arginyl (Dipeptide)-1 cetyl Ester
- 6-8% of liquid paraffin

- 5-7% of polyisoprene
- 0.1-1% of stearyl alcohol 25-ethoxylate
- 1-2% of coccus-polypeptide of wheat
- 1-2% of wheat proteins esterified with palmitic acid
- 1-3% of glyceryl isostearate
- 1-3% of propylene glycol
- 0-1% of lanolin oil
- 1% of dimethicone
- 0.1-1% of lecithin
- 0.001-0.1% of glycerin-0.001-0.1% of alcohol
- preservatives/antioxidants as required
- perfume
- water as required up to 100

Kindly amend the paragraph that begins at page 20, line 20, as follows:

Formulation of a Cosmetic Composition According to the Invention Suitable as a Continuation Cosmetic Preparation:

- 0.5% by weight of pentapeptide of gly-pro-arg-pro-ala-NH₂
SEQ ID NO 1.
- 1% by weight of anise extract
- 0.5% of Magnesium gluconate
- 1% of acetyl tyrosyl-arginyl (Dipeptide)-1 cetyl Ester
- 5-7% of liquid paraffin
- 5-7% of polyisoprene
- 0.1-1% of stearyl alcohol 25-ethoxylate
- 1-2% of coccus-polypeptide of wheat
- 1-2% of wheat proteins esterified with palmitic acid
- 1-3% of glyceryl isostearate
- 1-3% of propylene glycol

- 2-3% of isostearyllic alcohol
- 0-1% of lanolin oil
- 0-1% of panthenol
- preservatives/antioxidants as required
- perfume
- water as required up to 100

Kindly amend the paragraph that begins at page 21, line 17, as follows:

Formulation of a Cosmetic Composition According to the Invention Suitable as a Maintenance Cosmetic Preparation:

- 0.3% by weight of pentapeptide of gly-pro-arg-pro-ala-NH₂
SEQ ID NO 1.
- 0.5% by weight of anise extract
- 0.3% of Magnesium gluconate
- 0.5% of acetyl tyrosyl-arginyl (Dipeptide)-1 cetyl Ester
- 6% of liquid paraffin
- 5% of polyisoprene
- 0.5% of stearyllic alcohol 25-ethoxylate
- 2% of coccus-polypeptide of wheat
- 2% of wheat proteins esterified with palmitic acid
- 2% of glyceryl isostearate
- 1% of propylene glycol
- 3% of isostearyllic alcohol
- 0.5% of lanolin oil
- 0.5% of dimethicone
- perfume
- preservatives/antioxidants as required

-water as required up to 100

Kindly amend the paragraph that begins at page 25, line 3, as follows:

The frequency of the contractions was determined in a nerve-muscle co-culture model to evaluate the decontracting capacity of pentapeptide gly-pro-arg-pro-ala-NH, SEQ ID NO 1, used at a concentration of 0.3% by weight.